

TOWNSHIP OF FLOWERFIELD

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

July 11, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT** - Myron Fuller, Carroll Parmeter, Ron Shaver, Evelyn Flowers, Alan Pearson
- **CALL TO ORDER** - Carroll called the meeting to order at 7 PM
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Recited
- **BOARD MEMBER ADDITIONS** - None
- **APPROVAL OF July 11, 2017 Agenda** - Ron motion, Alan second, motion carried
- **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** - None
- **APPROVAL OF June 13, 2017 Minutes** - Evelyn motion, Alan second, motion carried
- **GUEST/PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Russell Williams: Was told about pig farm coming to Flowerfield Township with no notification from anyone...it is a centennial farm. Doug Kuhlman: No one at this level is doing anything behind your back. Finally, able to contact MDARD yesterday. Letters from May 18 and June 8 were sent to various agencies including Flowerfield Township. The Right to Farm Act has become a shield. Vicky: Why did you not know? Doug: They did not ask for our opinions. Further explained state laws. Joe Woodin: Does not believe that we can request information from them through FOIA. Vicky: Was told that Park Township got letters. Doug: Unknown to him and he is their Zoning Administrator also. Right to Farm is not covered under FOIA. Called H & H and was told that would have 2400 pigs. Betty Grindell: At the last meeting, had seen that the land was sold. How can they put this in R1 zoning? What about effects on ground water? How does it affect property values? Was told to call MDARD and did, was told that the township controlled zoning and that letters were sent to the clerk at this address. Myron should have known. Myron: The June 8 letter that was received June 15 is the first and only correspondence received. Betty: Can we contact H & H. Doug: Yes. Betty: is anyone here from H& H? Carroll: Contact MDARD and your state representative. They are the only people that can help. Ron Harmon: Park Township was notified and knows we are not in Park Township. What about the April notification to Flowerfield Township. Doug: May 18 and June 8 were the letter dates to Flowerfield Township. Ron: Under current zoning, R1 allows farming but excludes CAFO. Doug: MDARD says zoning does not matter if you allow farming and CAFO cannot be excluded. This would involve the process of redoing the Zoning Ordinance and saying no to farming in R1. Sally Hackenberg: Did H & H get a permit? Doug: No. Sally: Dale Bent had to pay over \$500 to put in a pole barn. Doug: He is a farm, not a state zoning project. So, it came to our level. The variance burden of cost goes to the individual. MDARD contact is Stephen Mohoney, Resource Analyst at 517 284 5620 or MohoneyS@mi.gov. Sally: Why was attorney not contacted? Doug: The Act pre-empts local zoning. Ron: Around 1996, a CAFO was trying to come in near his residence. CAFO exclusion was in zoning. This is not new. Township regulations did not help, the land owner did not sell. Russell: Would you (Doug) call Channel 8 News and talk about being stepped on by government? Doug: Why don't you call...they would listen more to a taxpayer from within the township. Sally: If there is a manure spill, DEQ can be called. Joe: Called DEQ. The response was that Mr. Hunter (of H & H) is a permanent farm and they know all about him. Doug: H & H is regulated by law to call DEQ for a manure spill. Courtney Spencer: How many jobs will this create? Doug: Doubted very many. Planning a letter to H & H for their application and any other documentation. Ron Harmon: Do they need any permits from us? Doug: No. Russell: Can it be stopped because of a historical farm? Doug: Probably not. Reach out to the historical society. Aaron Reitenour: Has talked to Shalice Northrup about his taxes with no results. Carroll: Only recourse is BOR in December. Leave your name and address so he can talk to Shalice about it.

- **CORRESPONDENCE** - SJCP RE: Proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments. MDARD RE: Island Acres - Site Suitability Approval. Seventh-Day Adventist Church RE: Missionary project

REPORTS

- **SUPERVISOR, CARROLL PARMETER** - None
- **CLERK, MYRON FULLER** - None
- **TREASURER, ALAN PEARSON** - MAESA report and Treasurer report was handed out
- **TRUSTEE, RON SHAVER** - Working on millage proposal language with attorney
- **TRUSTEE, EVELYN FLOWERS** - None
- **ASSESSOR, SHALICE NORTHROP** - Absent
- **PLANNING COMMISSION, GREG HAMELINK** - Will review SJCP letter at the next meeting. Will also review old ordinances that may be invalidated. Ron added that the PC has discussed H & H and will again
- **BLIGHT OFFICER, MIKE HAYDON** - Absent
- **BUILDING INSPECTOR, RANDY SCHMELING** - Absent
- **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, DOUG KUHLMAN** - Permit Log was handed out
- **SEXTON, BILL KRUGER** - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Millage proposal** - Possible for November election if there is a county wide election, otherwise 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approve Citizen Planner Course at 137.50 for Joe Woodin** - Myron motion, Evelyn second, motion carried
- **Resolution 2017-07-11 (A) for signatories safe deposit box** - Offered by Myron, second offered by Alan. Roll call vote: All yes. Carroll declared the resolution adopted
- **Resolution 2017-07-11 (B) for signatories investment account** - Offered by Myron, second offered by Alan. Roll call vote: All yes. Carroll declared the resolution adopted
- **Resolution 2017-07-11 (C) for signatories general account** - Offered by Myron, second offered by Alan. Roll call vote: All yes. Carroll declared the resolution adopted
- **Resolution 2017-07-11 (D) for signatories tax account** - Offered by Myron, second offered by Alan. Roll call vote: All yes. Carroll declared the resolution adopted

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Sally: Where is cemetery software? Kathy Conant: Here. Myron: It has its own computer. Bill Krueger: It is going well.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES (6311 – 6339) - Myron motion, Evelyn second, motion carried

ADJOURNMENT - Myron motion, Alan second, motion carried at 8:40 PM